

Changes to the First Aid Regulations

Information for Employers

As of 1st October 2013, The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will cease providing the monitoring of First Aid at Work (FAW) and Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) Training.

The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 will still remain and the requirement for Employers to conduct a risk assessment to determine the number of trained First Aiders will still exist.

What does this mean for Employers?

This means that employers need to exercise due diligence when choosing the right first aid training for their workplace. Employers must be satisfied that their training provider is competent in first aid and has the necessary quality assurance processes in place.

HSE have provided guidance for Employers and Guidance on the Regulations and state:

"The guidance however does not PROMOTE, RECOMMEND or SUPPORT any particular option. It does not comment on the quality of individual training courses or the service provided, nor does it provide an assessment of the quality assurance systems or any provider or class of provider".

So how do Employers choose a first aid training provider?

We believe employers were comfortable with the HSE approval and monitoring system as this gave them confidence that approved training providers were operating to the minimum standard required by HSE. Ouch understand that recognised certification is important to employers and because of this we are now accredited by two external bodies; "CIEH" the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and "FAIB" First Aid Industry Body. This gives employers a choice when choosing a certified first aid course. Both options follow the recommended syllabus specified HSE.

Option 1: FAIB

The First Aid Industry Body (FAIB) has been set up to fill the void created by HSE withdrawing from the Approvals system and give a direct alternative to the Ofqual/SQA system.

HSE recommends that when selecting a Training Organisation, Employers should carry out due diligence to ensure that the organisation selected is suitable. **Minister Mark Hoban MP and senior officials in HSE are happy for FAIB to perform the due diligence on behalf of its Members (the Training Organisations).**

It was also clarified from the Minister/HSE to FAIB that Accreditation/Assurance COULD be sought through an Independent Body other than Ofqual/SQA. The accreditation has now been achieved through the Quality Care Academy (QCA) who have experts in and expertise regarding the Health Industry.

FAIB has been created by Ian Kershaw MBE, who previously Managed the First Aid Approvals and Monitoring Service of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) from 1995-2007 and will be operated through an Advisory Panel of Democratically elected people from within Training Organisations who are experts in the First Aid Training Industry.

This option means that we will deliver the course and assess the competency of delegates in exactly the same way as when HSE approval was in place. There will be no additional fees for certification, administration etc.

Courses Accredited by FAIB

- First Aid at Work
- First Aid at Work (Requalification)
- Emergency First Aid at Work
- First Aid Annual Refresher
- Paediatric First Aid

Option 2 CIEH/Ofqual accredited

This option is managed, certificated and assessed in a different way than previous first aid training.

Delegates must:

- participate in assessment activities
- complete a test paper
- demonstrate competence in first-aid procedures for the management of a casualty:

The price of the course will remain the same except for an additional fee of £10 + vat per delegate for certification.

Courses Accredited by ofqual/CIEH

- CIEH Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work **(New)**
- CIEH Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work **(Requalification)**
- CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work **(Revised version)**
- CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work **(Requalification)**
- CIEH Level 2 Award in Paediatric First Aid
- CIEH Annual Basic Skills Update **(New)**

If you require any further information regarding first aid training or would like to arrange a course please call or email the Ouch office.